



Australian Bureau of Statistics

1367.2 - State and Regional Indicators, Victoria, Sep 2008

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 21/11/2008

Summary

Contents

CONTENTS

Expanded Contents



State Comparison

Includes: **Summary of Statistical Indicators**



Population

Includes: **Estimated Resident Population**



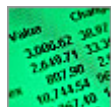
Crime

Includes: **Recorded Crime Offences**



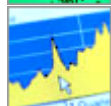
Work and Income

Includes: **Labour Force Survey Sample Size Reduction, Civilian Labour Force by Region, Employed Persons by Industry, Employed Persons by Occupation, Part-time Workers, Duration of Unemployment, Estimates of Unemployment Rate**



State Final Demand

Includes: **State Final Demand**



Price Indexes

Includes: **Consumer Price Index, House Price Indexes**



Construction

Includes: **Building Approvals, Engineering Construction Activity**



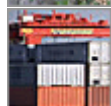
Tourism

Includes: **Tourist Accommodation**



Agriculture

Includes: **Livestock Slaughtering and Meat Production, Other Agricultural Production**



Trade

Includes: **Balance of Trade, Trade by Commodity, Major Trading Partners**



Environment

Includes: **Air Quality, Water Resources**

In this issue

NOTES

FORTHCOMING ISSUES

ISSUE (QUARTER)

December 2008

Release Date

20 February 2009

NOTE

This publication contains a feature article entitled **Victorian Household Preparedness for Emergencies**. A list of all previous feature articles published is contained in the Appendix of the PDF version of the publication.

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CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

In this issue two chapters: 'health and safety' and 'roads' have been removed and one chapter: 'crime' has been added. These chapters are included in the publication only when new data are available.

Two tables: 'Employed persons, by industry (ANZSIC06) and Major Statistical Region' and 'Estimates of unemployment rate, by Local Government Area' have been added to the work and income chapter.

The section on average weekly earnings has been omitted from the work and income chapter. Please refer to Average Weekly Earnings, Australia (cat. no. 6302.0).

A review has led to minor revisions being made to three tables: the table in the population chapter, and the two tables in the state final demand chapter.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

The statistics shown are the latest available as at 31 October 2008.

Explanatory Notes in the form found in other ABS publications are not included in **State and Regional Indicators, Victoria**. Readers are directed to the Explanatory Notes contained in related ABS publications.

Users are advised that small area estimates presented in this publication should be used with caution.

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or James Darragh on Melbourne (03) 9615 7049.

About this Release

State and Regional Indicators, Victoria (SRIV) is a quarterly publication that contains recently released statistical information about the whole of Victoria. Data is sourced from ABS and non-ABS collections. It provides measures according to a triple bottom line of economic, social and environment elements.

Most chapters contain a mix of tables, charts and commentary, to provide a basic analysis of recent movements in key economic, social and environmental data. Data is presented for varying geographic classifications, including, Victoria; Melbourne and the Balance of Victoria; down to Local Government Area for some series. The aim of the publication is to provide a picture of the situation of Victoria and enable comparison, both over time and between regions.

Core data, such as Estimated Resident Population, State Final Demand, Labour Force Statistics, Price Indexes, Building Approvals, Air Quality, and Water Storage Volumes is complemented by periodic annual data including the Condition of VicRoads Network, Recorded Crime Offences, Life Expectancy at Birth, Government Owned Housing Stock and others.

As the information is sourced from a wide variety of collections, care needs to be taken when analysing the data as time periods, definitions, methodologies, scope and coverage may differ from table to table. Advice is provided in the publication on such matters.

Expanded Contents

CONTENTS

Summary Contents

CONTENTS

State Comparison

Summary of Statistical Indicators

Population

- Estimated Resident Population
- Crime
 - Recorded Crime Offences
- Work and Income
 - Labour force survey sample size reduction
 - Civilian labour force by region
 - Employed Persons by Industry
 - Employed Persons by Occupation
 - Part-time Workers
 - Duration of Unemployment
- State Final Demand
 - State Final Demand
- Price Indexes
 - Consumer Price Index
 - House Price Indexes
- Construction
 - Building Approvals
 - Engineering Construction Activity
- Tourism
 - Tourist Accommodation
- Agriculture
 - Livestock Slaughtering and Meat Production
- Trade
 - Balance of Trade
 - Trade by Commodity
 - Major Trading Partners
- Environment
 - Air Quality
 - Water Resources

State Comparison

[Contents >> State Comparison](#)



STATE COMPARISON

This section contains the following subsection :
Summary of Statistical Indicators

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Summary of Statistical Indicators

[Contents >> State Comparison >> Summary of Statistical Indicators](#)

SUMMARY OF STATISTICAL INDICATORS

This chapter summarises the key Victorian statistical indicators and compares them with the same statistical indicators of other states and Australia.

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Summary of Statistical Indicators (file size 30kB).

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Population

[Contents >> Population](#)



POPULATION

This section contains the following subsection :
Estimated Resident Population

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Estimated Resident Population

[Contents >> Population >> Estimated Resident Population](#)

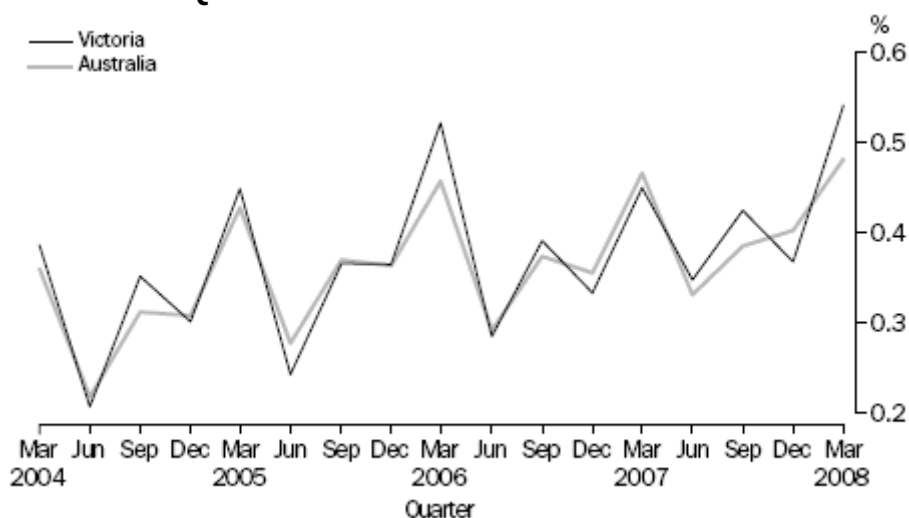
ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION

Victoria's Estimated Resident Population (ERP) at the end of any given period is the estimated population at the beginning of the period plus the sum of three components: natural increase, net overseas migration and net interstate migration.

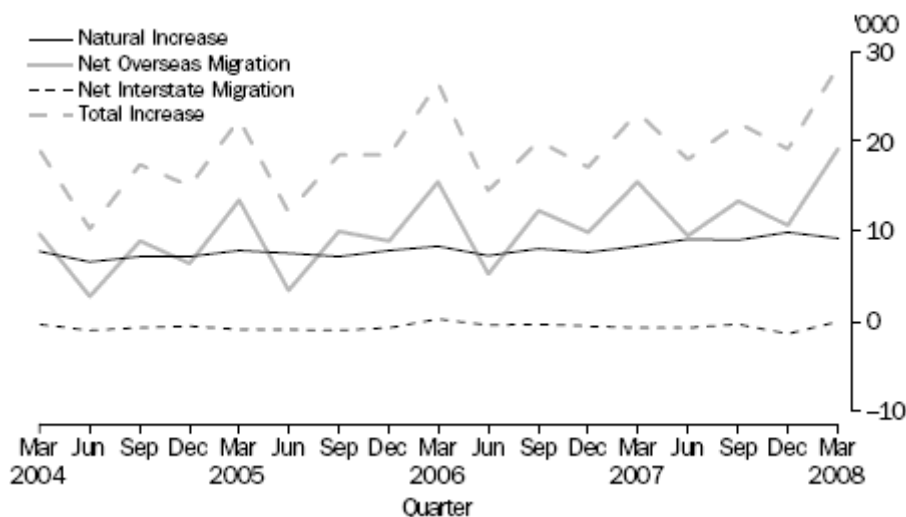
At the end of March quarter 2008, Victoria's ERP was 5,274,400 persons and increased by 28,400 persons or 0.54% since the end of December quarter 2007. Over the same period, Australia's ERP grew by 0.48% or 102,000 persons. Victoria's ERP increased by 87,600 persons or 1.69% over the 12 months since the end of March quarter 2007.

The largest contribution to Victoria's population growth in March quarter 2008 came from net overseas migration (19,100 persons) followed by natural increase (9,300 persons). The level of net interstate migration in March quarter 2008 was zero persons. Victoria has experienced a net loss of people to other states in eighteen of the last twenty quarters with the only net gain being in March quarter 2006 where its population gained 300 people through net interstate migration.

QUARTERLY POPULATION GROWTH



COMPONENTS OF POPULATION GROWTH



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2, Estimated Resident Population and Components of Population Change (file size 24kB).

Crime

[Contents >> Crime](#)



CRIME

This section contains the following subsection :
Recorded Crime Offences

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Recorded Crime Offences

[Contents >> Crime >> Recorded Crime Offences](#)

RECORDED CRIME OFFENCES

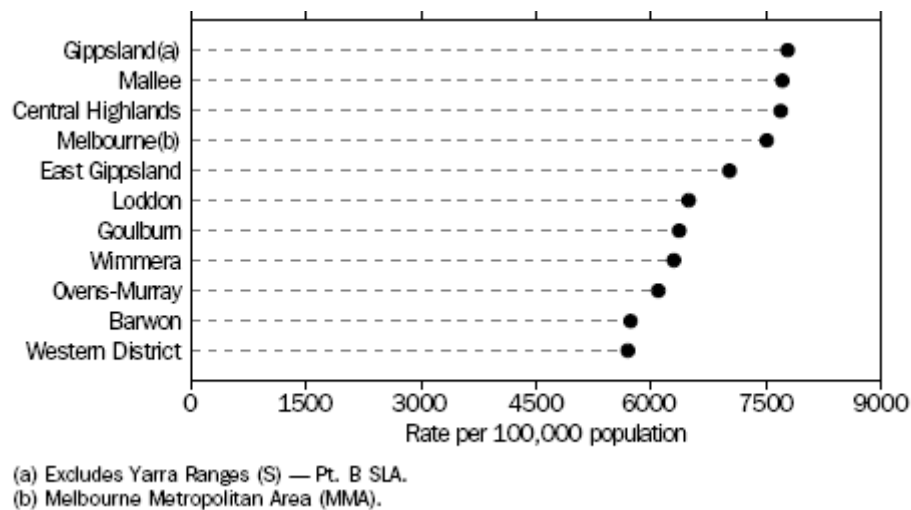
The data in the chapter are sourced directly from Victoria Police. The counts provided below relate to recorded offences, not offenders. Therefore, multiple offences committed by the same perpetrator are counted as separate recorded offences. Also, offences are recorded against the Local Government Area (LGA) in which they were committed rather than the offenders' usual place of residence. Figures must be used with caution as not all offences might be reported to the police.

Victoria recorded 376,958 crime offences during the 2007-08 financial year, an increase of 758 (0.2%) from the previous financial year. The majority (74.6%) of offences recorded in 2007-08 occurred against property.

Data were provided by Victoria Police as aggregates at LGA level. It was not possible to derive exact data for Melbourne and Gippsland Statistical Divisions (SDs) as Yarra Ranges LGA is split across these two SDs. In this chapter, Yarra Ranges LGA as a whole was included with the other LGAs in Melbourne SD to form a region referred to as Melbourne Metropolitan Area (MMA). Consequently, Gippsland SD as presented here excludes Yarra Ranges (S) - Pt B Statistical Local Area (SLA).

Recorded crime offence rates were calculated per 100,000 population using estimated resident population as at 30 June 2007 (cat. no. 3218.0). Gippsland SD recorded the highest rate of 7,774 per 100,000 population. Mallee (7,710) and Central Highlands (7,693) SDs also recorded relatively high rates. The lowest rates were recorded in Western District (5,699), Barwon (5,729) and Ovens-Murray (6,093) SDs.

RECORDED CRIME OFFENCES, By Statistical Division - 2007-08



The majority (75.8%) of offences in 2007-08 occurred in MMA. Within MMA, the highest rate of 36,393 offences per 100,000 population was recorded in Melbourne LGA. Yarra (18,007) and Maribyrnong (12,109) LGAs also recorded relatively high offence rates. Nillumbik (2,534), Manningham (2,941) and Yarra Ranges (3,890) LGAs recorded the lowest rates.

Outside MMA, the highest offence rates were recorded in Latrobe (10,777), Swan Hill (9,809) and Ballarat (9,475) LGAs. Golden Plains (1,649), West Wimmera (2,425) and Indigo (2,881) LGAs recorded the lowest offence rates.

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Recorded Crime Offences, By Local Government Area (file size 33kB).

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Work and Income

[Contents >> Work and Income](#)



WORK AND INCOME

This section contains the following subsection :

- Labour force survey sample size reduction
- Civilian labour force by region
- Employed Persons by Industry

Labour force survey sample size reduction

[Contents](#) >> [Work and Income](#) >> [Labour force survey sample size reduction](#)

LABOUR FORCE SURVEY SAMPLE SIZE REDUCTION

The sample size of the Labour Force Survey for July 2008 was reduced by 24% when compared with the June 2008 sample. The reduced sample is still representative, with selections made across all parts of Australia. However, there will be increased volatility in the estimates.

This reduction affects most tables in the chapter.

Detailed information about the sample reduction is provided in Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Sample Design, Nov 2007 (Second edition) (cat. no. 6269.0), which was released on 25 July 2008.

Civilian labour force by region

[Contents](#) >> [Work and Income](#) >> [Civilian labour force by region](#)

CIVILIAN LABOUR FORCE BY REGION

Between September 2007 and September 2008, the Victorian labour force grew by 34,200 people (1.2%). During this period, the number of employed persons rose by 28,400 (1.1%) and the number of unemployed persons rose by 5,800 (5.0%). The Victorian unemployment rate slightly increased from 4.3% to 4.4%.

In Melbourne Major Statistical Region the labour force grew by 30,300 persons or 1.5% and by 4,000 persons or 0.6% in Balance of Victoria. The proportion of employed persons who worked full-time decreased from 71.9% to 71.3% in Melbourne MSR and from 68.3% to 67.2% in Balance of Victoria.

The number of unemployed people increased by 1,600 (1.9%) in Melbourne MSR and by 4,300 (12.5%) in Balance of Victoria between September 2007 and September 2008. The unemployment rate remained at 4.1% in Melbourne MSR and increased from 4.8% to 5.3% in Balance of Victoria. The labour force participation rate decreased slightly in Melbourne MSR from 65.7% to 65.5% and in Balance of Victoria from 63.3% to 62.5%.

Within Balance of Victoria, Barwon-Western District Statistical Region experienced the

largest increase in employment (8,900 persons), followed by All Gippsland Statistical Region (7,200 persons). The largest falls in employment were recorded in Goulburn-Ovens-Murray (-13,000 persons) and Central Highlands-Wimmera (-4,000 persons) Statistical Regions.

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Civilian Labour Force, By Statistical Region (file size 57kB)

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Employed Persons by Industry

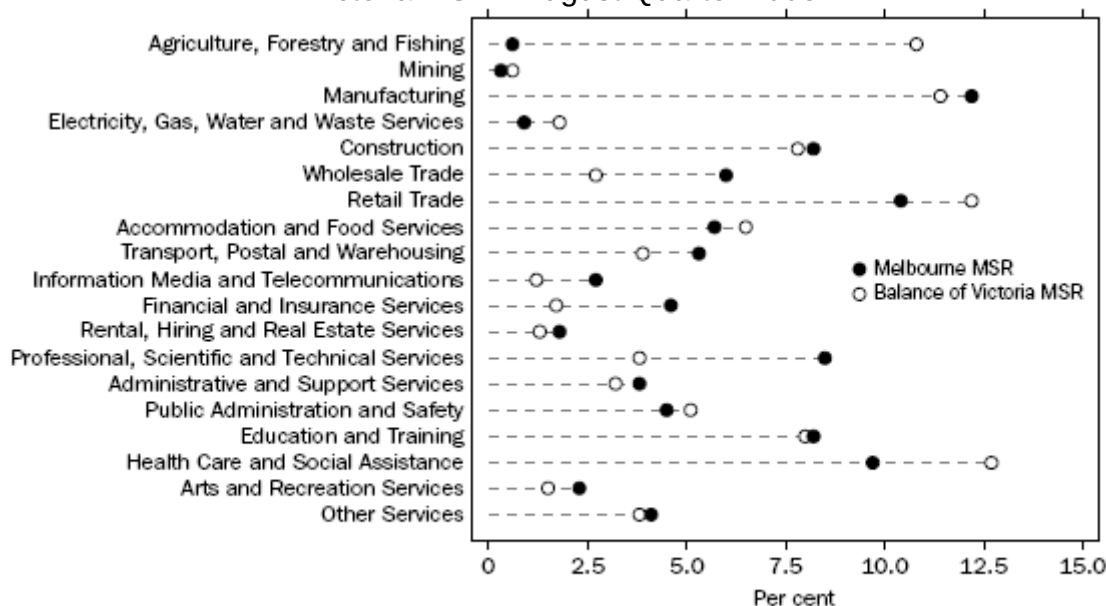
[Contents >> Work and Income >> Employed Persons by Industry](#)

EMPLOYED PERSONS BY INDUSTRY

The Employed Persons by Industry table has been re-based to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification, 2006 (ANZSIC06) (cat. no. 1292.0) and the commentary in this section is based on the new classification. To allow bridging of time series, the Employed Persons by Industry table based on ANZSIC93 has been retained for this issue, but will not be included in future issues.

In August quarter 2008, the largest proportion of persons employed in Melbourne MSR were in the Manufacturing industry (12.2%) followed by Retail Trade (10.4%) and Health Care and Social Assistance (9.7%) while in Balance of Victoria MSR, the largest proportion of persons were employed in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry (12.7%) followed by Retail Trade (12.2%) and Manufacturing (11.4%).

EMPLOYED PERSONS(a), By Industry (ANZSIC06), Melbourne MSR and Balance of Victoria MSR - August Quarter 2008



(a) Civilian population aged 15 years and over.

In Victoria, the Construction and Mining industries had the highest proportions of total males employed (89.6% and 79.4% respectively), while the highest proportions of total females employed were in the Health Care and Social Assistance, and Education and Training

industries (80.6% and 68.5% respectively).

In terms of full-time employment, the Construction industry accounted for the highest proportion of males employed in Victoria (94.6%), and the Health Care and Social Assistance industry accounted for the highest proportion of full-time females employed (72.8%).

The largest proportion of part-time workers who were male was in the Transport, Postal and Warehousing industry (57.3%), and Health Care and Social Assistance employed the largest proportion of part-time females (90.3%).

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Employed Persons, By Industry (ANZSIC06) and Major Statistical Region - August Quarter 2008 (file size 68kB).

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Employed Persons, By Industry (ANZSIC93) and Major Statistical Region - August Quarter 2008 (file size 62kB)

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Employed Persons by Occupation

[Contents](#) >> [Work and Income](#) >> [Employed Persons by Occupation](#)

EMPLOYED PERSONS BY OCCUPATION

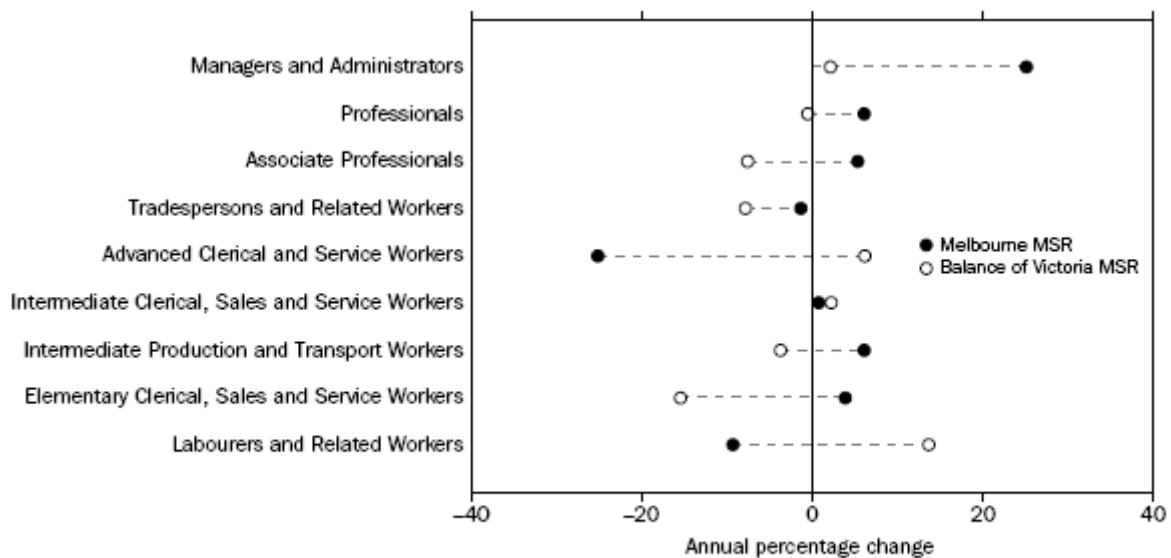
In August quarter 2008, the largest proportion of employed persons by occupation in Melbourne MSR were Professionals (23.8%) followed by Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers (16.2%) and Associate Professionals (12.5%). In Balance of Victoria MSR, Professionals (15.9%) was the largest group of workers, followed closely by Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers (15.0%) and Tradespersons and Related Workers (14.7%).

In Victoria, for male employees, the largest proportion of persons were Tradespersons and Related Workers (20.0%) followed by Professionals (18.4%) and Associate Professionals (13.0%). For female employees, the largest proportion of persons were Professionals (25.8%) followed by Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers (25.3%) and Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service Workers (13.8%).

The occupations with the highest proportion of males employed were Tradespersons and Related Workers and Intermediate Production and Transport Workers (90.8% and 82.9% respectively). Advanced Clerical and Service Workers and Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers had the highest proportions of females employed (86.4% and 72.2% respectively).

Full-time workers in Victoria worked mainly as Professionals (23.2%), Tradespersons and Related Workers (15.2%) and Associate Professionals (14.0%) and part-time workers worked mainly as Intermediate Clerical, Sales and Service Workers (21.4%), Elementary Clerical, Sales and Service Workers (20.3%) and Professionals (18.4%).

PERCENTAGE CHANGE OF EMPLOYED PERSONS(a), By Occupation(b) - August Quarter 2007 to August Quarter 2008



(a) Civilian population aged 15 years and over.
(b) Data provided on ASOO Second Edition basis.

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Employed Persons, By Occupation and Major Statistical Region - August Quarter 2008 (file size 30kB).

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Part-time Workers

[Contents](#) >> [Work and Income](#) >> [Part-time Workers](#)

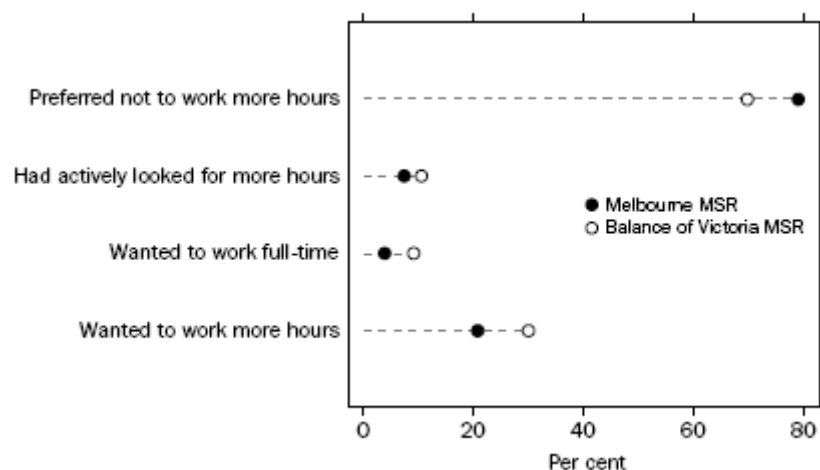
PART-TIME WORKERS

In August quarter 2008, there were 568,400 part-time workers in Melbourne MSR. From August quarter 2007 to August quarter 2008, total part-time workers increased by 28,300 persons (5.2%) in Melbourne MSR.

In August quarter 2008, females accounted for the majority of part-time workers (70.5%) in Melbourne MSR. The majority of part-time workers (78.6%) preferred not to work additional hours, and this was more common amongst females (81.0%) than males (72.7%).

In Balance of Victoria MSR, the total number of part-time workers in August quarter 2008 was 223,500, an increase of 1,000 persons (0.4%) since August quarter 2007. The majority of these part-time workers (72.7%) preferred not to work more hours. Again the proportion of part-time workers was greater amongst females (76.1%) than males (64.1%).

PART-TIME WORKER'S INTENTION, By Major Statistical Region - August Quarter 2008



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Part Time Workers, By Sex, Melbourne (file size 23kB).

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Part Time Workers, By Sex, Balance of Victoria (file size 23kB).

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Duration of Unemployment

[Contents](#) >> [Work and Income](#) >> [Duration of Unemployment](#)

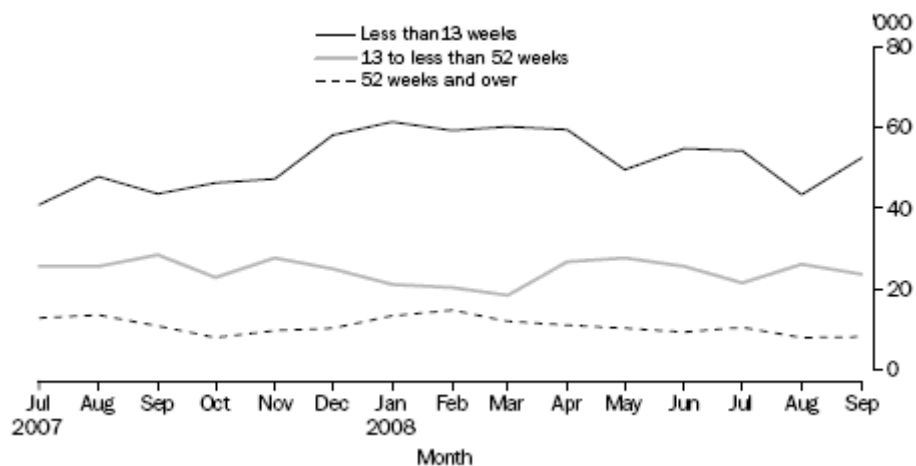
DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Between September 2007 and September 2008, the number of persons unemployed in the short term (for less than 13 weeks) increased by 20.5% in Melbourne MSR and increased by 26.7% in Balance of Victoria MSR.

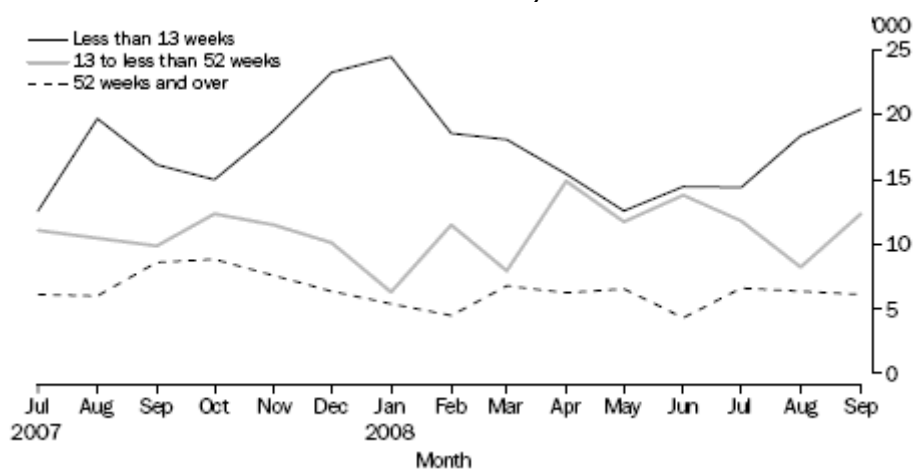
Over the same period, the number of medium term unemployed (13 to less than 52 weeks) decreased by 16.3% in Melbourne MSR and increased by 24.2% in Balance of Victoria MSR.

The number of long term unemployed (those unemployed for 52 weeks or more) decreased by 24.1% in Melbourne MSR and by 29.1% in Balance of Victoria MSR.

DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT, Melbourne MSR



DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT, Balance of Victoria MSR



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Duration of Unemployment, By Sex and Major Statistical Region (file size 47kB)

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Estimates of Unemployment Rate, By Local Government Area: Smoothed Series (file size 30kB).

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

State Final Demand

[Contents >> State Final Demand](#)

| Value | Change |
|-----------|--------|
| 3,000.62 | 30.97 |
| 2,649.71 | 32.37 |
| 807.59 | 2.1 |
| 10,744.54 | 96 |
| 10,744.54 | 96 |

STATE FINAL DEMAND

This section contains the following subsection :
State Final Demand

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

State Final Demand

[Contents >> State Final Demand >> State Final Demand](#)

STATE FINAL DEMAND

State final demand measures the total value of goods and services that are sold in a state to buyers who wish to either consume them or retain them in the form of capital assets. It excludes sales made to buyers who use them as inputs to a production activity, export sales and sales that lead to accumulation of inventories.

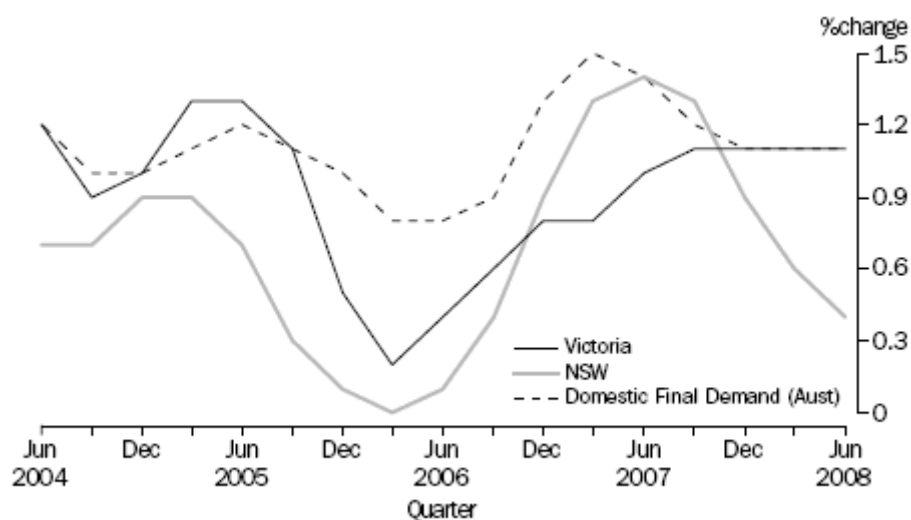
Measures of state final demand make no distinction between demand that is met by goods and services produced within the state in question, or by supplies sourced from another state, or from overseas. State final demand is therefore not a measure of the value of production activity occurring within a state.

Note: As of 20 November 2006, the Telstra Corporation was effectively privatised. For the purpose of ABS statistics this change from public to private sector was effective from March quarter 2007. The classification of Telstra has changed from public sector non-financial corporation to private sector non-financial corporation from the March quarter 2007. There is a trend break from March quarter 2007 in a number of series related to the privatisation of Telstra. As a result no trend estimates are published for these series. For more information please see **Information Paper: Treatment of Telstra in ABS statistics** (cat. no. 8102.0) released 26 February 2007.

In June quarter 2008, the trend estimate for Victorian final demand, in volume terms, was \$64,969m, an increase of 1.1% from March quarter 2008. This was above the trend growth for New South Wales (0.4%) and equal to the Australian trend growth (1.1%) domestic final demand over the same period.

Household final consumption expenditure is the largest component of state final demand, and accounted for 57.7% of the trend volume estimate of state final demand in June quarter 2008. This represented an increase in household final consumption expenditure of 0.4% from March quarter 2008. The other main contributors to trend state final demand were private gross fixed capital formation (23.3%) and government final consumption expenditure (16.1%).

STATE FINAL DEMAND, Chain volume measure - Change from previous quarter: Trend



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 State Final Demand, Chain Volume Measures: Seasonally Adjusted and Trend (file size 35kB).

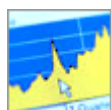
View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 State Final Demand: Original (file size 24kB).

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Price Indexes

[Contents >> Price Indexes](#)



PRICE INDEXES

This section contains the following subsection :
 Consumer Price Index
 House Price Indexes

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Consumer Price Index

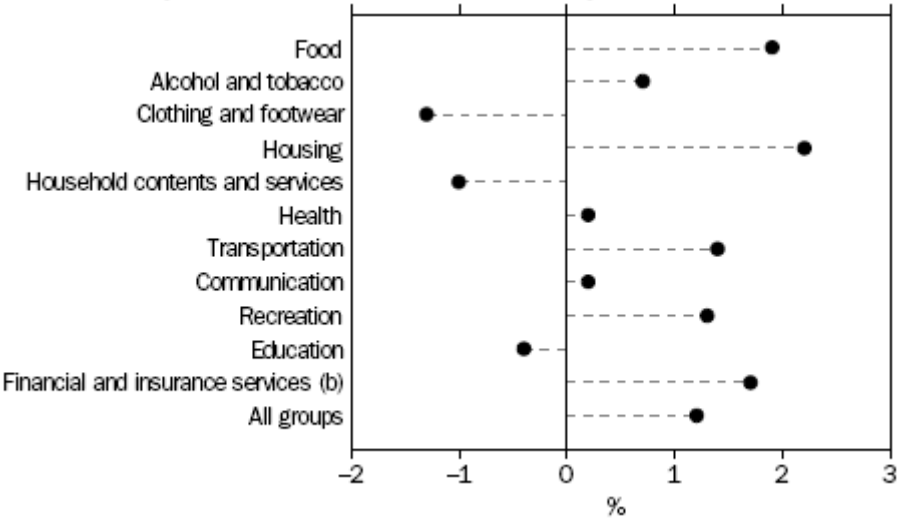
[Contents >> Price Indexes >> Consumer Price Index](#)

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Between June quarter 2008 and September quarter 2008, the all-groups CPI for Melbourne rose by 1.2%. The groups which recorded the largest increases were Housing (2.2%), Food (1.9%), and Financial and insurance services (1.7%). The groups which recorded decreases were Clothing and footwear (-1.3%), Household contents and services (-1.0%) and Education (-0.4%).

Between September quarter 2007 and September quarter 2008, the all-groups CPI for Melbourne rose by 4.8%. The CPI all-groups weighted average for the eight capital cities rose by 5.0% over the same period. The biggest yearly increases for Melbourne occurred in Financial and insurance services (9.2%), Transportation (9.1%) and Housing (7.2%). The only group which recorded a decrease for the year was Clothing and footwear (-2.0%).

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX GROUPS, Melbourne - Percentage change from June Quarter 2008 to September Quarter 2008



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Consumer Price Index, By Group, Melbourne (file size 23kB).

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

House Price Indexes

[Contents](#) >> [Price Indexes](#) >> [House Price Indexes](#)

HOUSE PRICE INDEXES

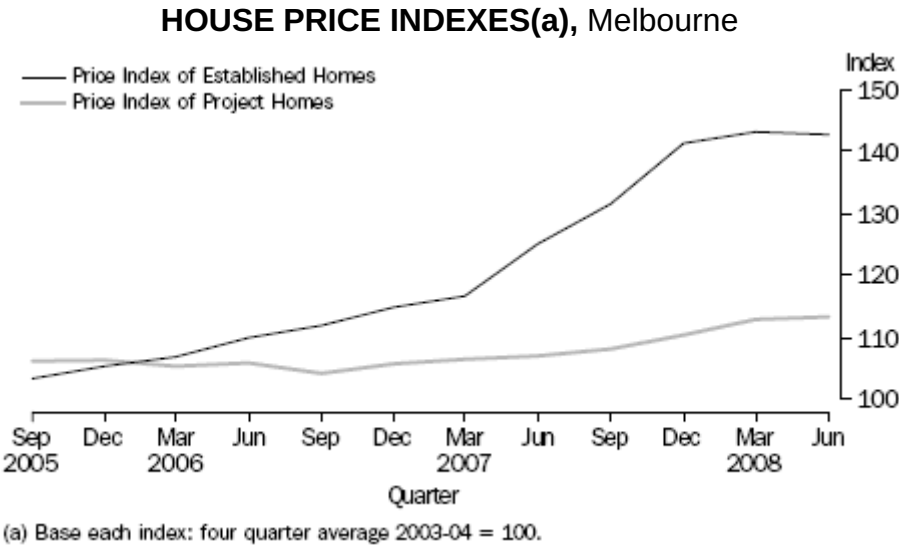
The price index for established houses covers transactions in detached residential dwellings on their own block of land regardless of age (i.e. includes new houses sold as a house/land package as well as second-hand houses). Price changes therefore relate to changes in the total price of dwelling and land.

Project homes are dwellings available for construction on an existing block of land. For project homes indexes price changes relate only to the cost of constructing the dwelling (excluding land).

September quarter 2005 saw the introduction of a new methodology for compiling the established house price index. A detailed discussion of the new methodology is provided in **Information Paper: Renovating the Established House Price Index** (cat. no. 6417.0) released on 30 November 2005. The new established house price index commenced from March quarter 2002 and has a reference base of 2003-04 = 100.0. A new weighting pattern for the project home price index was introduced in September quarter 2005 (see Explanatory Notes to cat. no. 6416.0).

In June quarter 2008, the price of project homes in Melbourne rose by 0.4% while preliminary estimates of the price of established homes decreased by 0.3%. These followed a rise of 2.3% in project homes and a rise of 1.3% in established homes during the previous quarter. Preliminary estimates of the weighted average of the eight capital cities showed a decrease of 0.3% in established house prices and an increase of 1.0% in project house prices in June quarter 2008.

From June quarter 2007 to June quarter 2008, established home prices in Melbourne rose by 14.1% while project home prices rose by 5.8%.



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 House Price Indexes, Melbourne and Weighted Average of Eight Capital Cities (file size 26kB).

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Construction

[Contents >> Construction](#)



CONSTRUCTION

This section contains the following subsection :
Building Approvals
Engineering Construction Activity

[Previous Page](#)

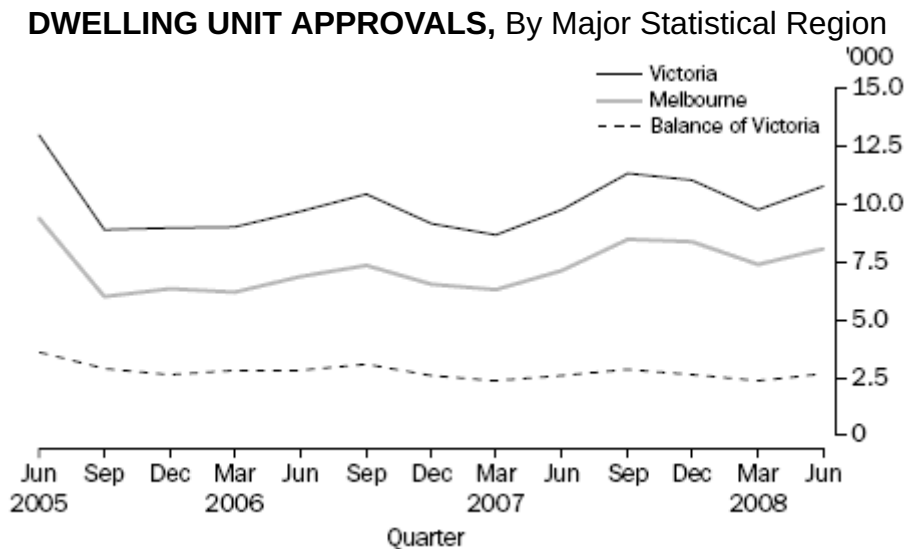
[Next Page](#)

Building Approvals

[Contents >> Construction >> Building Approvals](#)

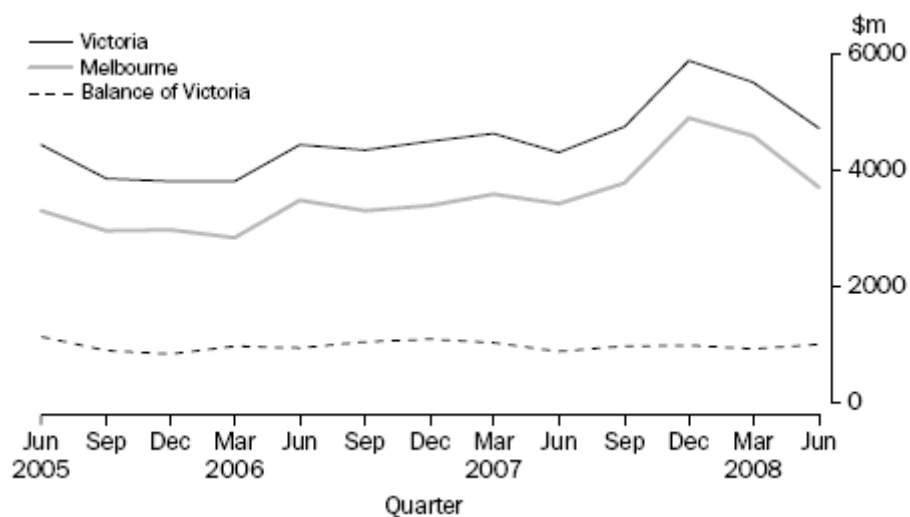
BUILDING APPROVALS

In June quarter 2008, the total number of new dwelling units approved in Victoria was 10,747. This was 995 more than in March quarter 2008, or an increase of 10.2%. From June quarter 2007 to June quarter 2008, the number of new dwelling units approved in Melbourne MSR increased by 9.4%, while in the Balance of Victoria the increase was 12.8%. In Melbourne MSR, the highest number of new dwelling units approved in June quarter 2008 were in Wyndham (865), Casey (790) and Melton (679) LGAs. The largest increase in the number of new dwelling unit approvals was in Melton LGA (241) followed by Casey (191) and Wyndham (187) LGAs, and the largest decreases were in Melbourne (-505), Boroondara (-71) and Moreland (-69) LGAs.



The value of new building approvals for Victoria was \$803.8 million lower in June quarter 2008 than in the previous quarter.

VALUE OF ALL BUILDING APPROVALS, By Major Statistical Region



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Building Approvals, By Local Government Area (file size 45kB).

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

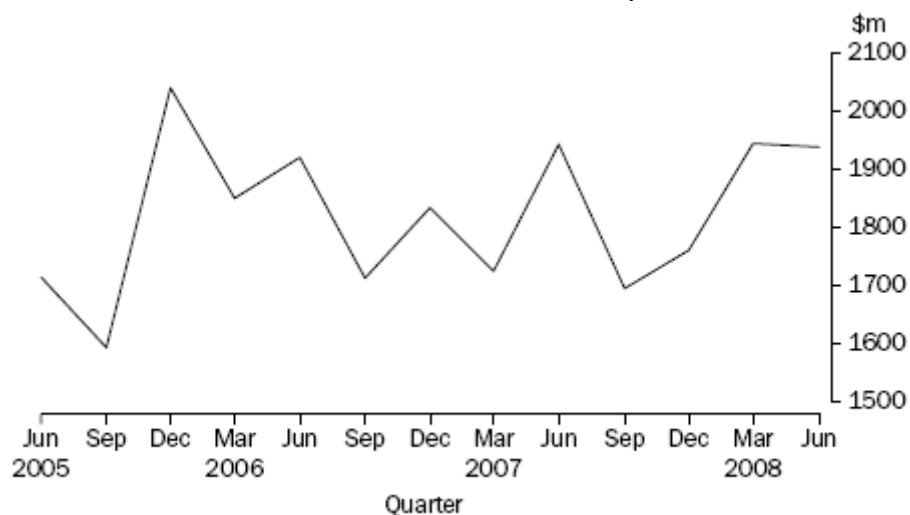
Engineering Construction Activity

[Contents](#) >> [Construction](#) >> [Engineering Construction Activity](#)

ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

For Victoria, the total value of engineering construction activity (work) done during June quarter 2008 was \$1,939.0m, a decrease of 0.3% from March quarter 2008. The overall decrease in June quarter 2008 was mainly due to a decrease in the value of work done for Bridges, railways and harbours (-\$123.8m) and Heavy Industry (-\$78.7m). In contrast, the value of work done increased for Telecommunications (\$115.2m), Electricity generation, transmission etc. and pipelines (\$38.7m), Roads, highways and subdivisions (\$18.5m) and Recreation and other (\$17.7m).

ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY, Value of Work Done



[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Tourism

[Contents >> Tourism](#)



TOURISM

This section contains the following subsection :
Tourist Accommodation

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Tourist Accommodation

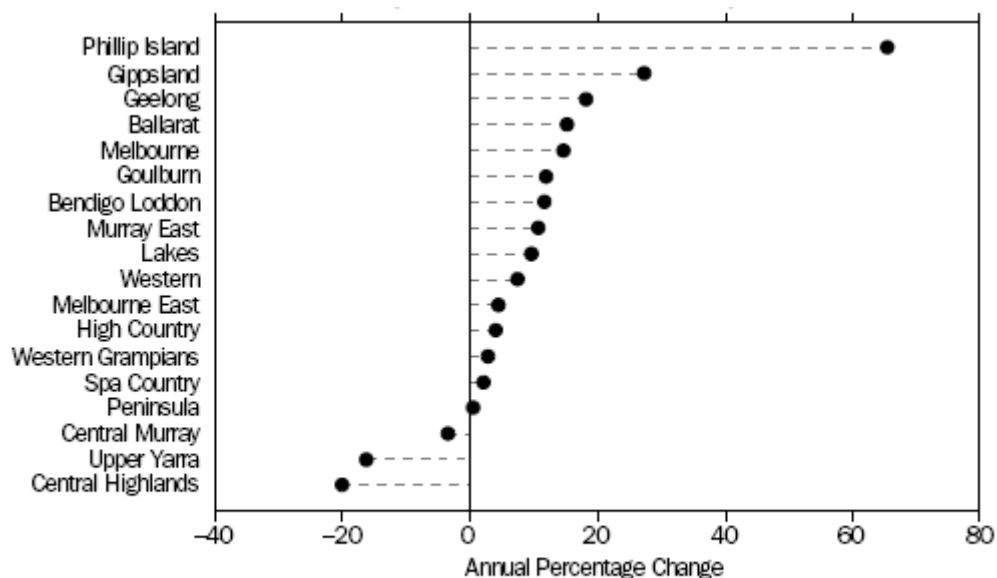
[Contents >> Tourism >> Tourist Accommodation](#)

TOURIST ACCOMMODATION

In June quarter 2008, total accommodation takings for hotels, motels and serviced apartments in Victoria with 15 or more rooms were \$341.6m, an increase of 13.4% from June quarter 2007. The Melbourne Tourism Region accounted for the majority of Victoria's accommodation takings (79.8%).

The highest percentage growth in accommodation takings between June quarter 2007 and June quarter 2008 occurred in the Tourism Region of Phillip Island (65.4%), followed by Gippsland (27.3%) and Geelong (18.3%). The Tourism Regions of Central Highlands (-20.0%), Upper Yarra (-16.2%) and Central Murray (-3.5%) experienced decline in accommodation takings.

PERCENTAGE CHANGE OF TAKINGS FROM ACCOMMODATION(a), By Tourism Region(b) - June Quarter 2007 to June Quarter 2008



(a) Hotels, motels and serviced apartments with 15 or more rooms.
 (b) Data for Macedon, Mallee and Wimmera Tourism Regions are not available for publication.

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Tourist Accommodation, By Tourism Region - June Quarter 2008 (file size 27kB).

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Agriculture

[Contents >> Agriculture](#)



AGRICULTURE

This section contains the following subsection :
 Livestock Slaughtering and Meat Production

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

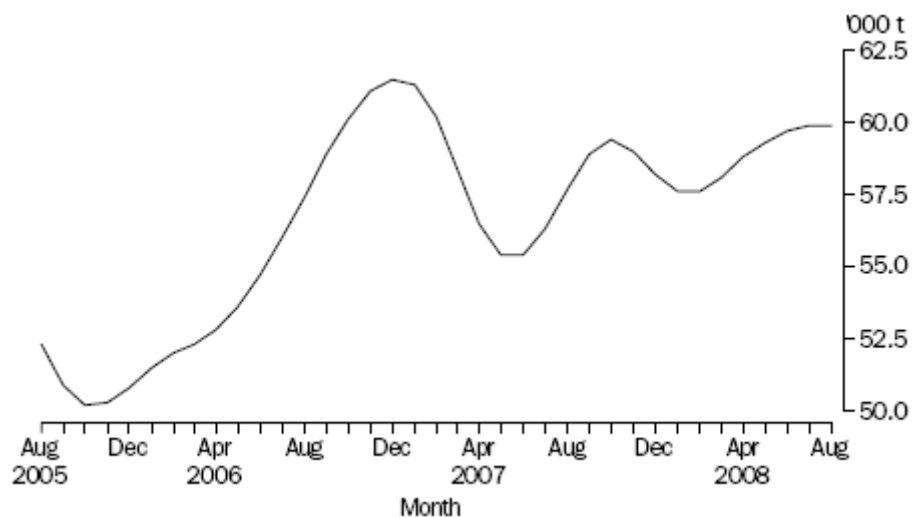
Livestock Slaughtering and Meat Production

[Contents >> Agriculture >> Livestock Slaughtering and Meat Production](#)

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERING AND MEAT PRODUCTION

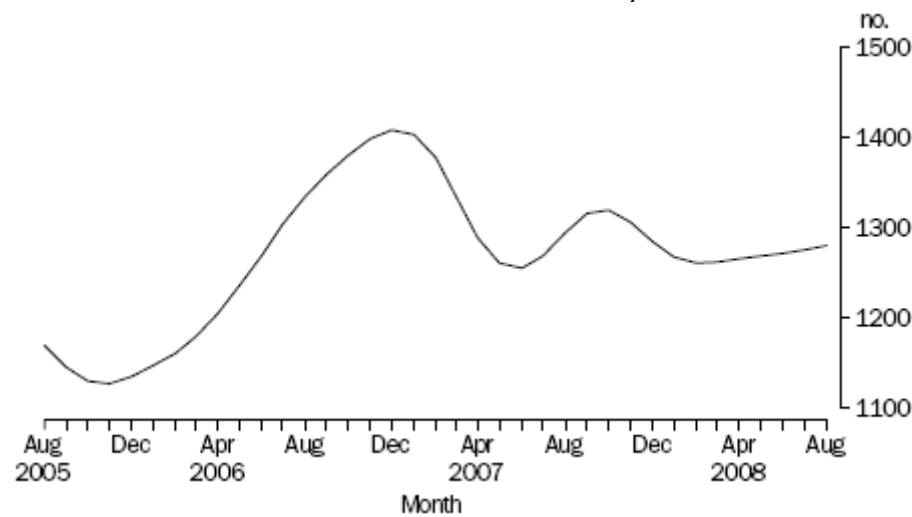
Between August 2007 and August 2008, the trend estimate for total meat production for Victoria increased by 3.8% from 57,742.1 tonnes to 59,938.3 tonnes. The production of Beef, Mutton, Pig meat and Veal increased by 14.3%, 12.9%, 2.5% and 2.3% respectively, while a fall in production was recorded for Lamb (-18.4%) over the period.

TOTAL MEAT PRODUCTION, Victoria: Trend



The trend estimate for livestock slaughtering decreased by 40,800 (3.2%) slaughtering between August 2007 and August 2008. Sheep, Cattle, Calves and Pig slaughtering increased by 16.9%, 11.9%, 2.0% and 1.0% respectively, while Lamb slaughtering decreased by 13.3% over this period.

TOTAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERING, Victoria: Trend



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Livestock Slaughtering and Meat Production, Victoria: All Series (file size 26kB).

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Other Agricultural Production (file size 27kB).

Trade

[Contents >> Trade](#)



TRADE

This section contains the following subsection :

Balance of Trade

Trade by Commodity

Major Trading Partners

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Balance of Trade

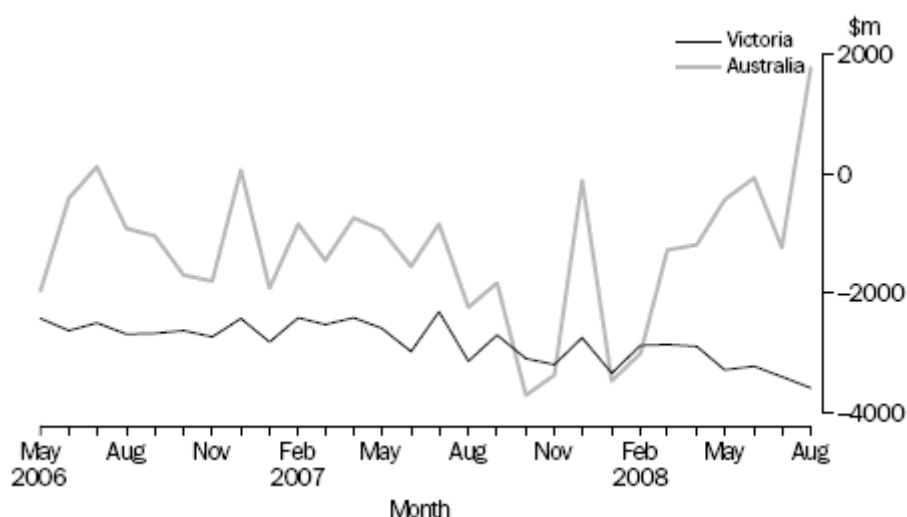
[Contents >> Trade >> Balance of Trade](#)

BALANCE OF TRADE

In August quarter 2008, the value of Victoria's exports was \$1,630m. Between August quarter 2007 and August quarter 2008, the value of imports rose by \$378m or 7.8% and export declined by \$70m or 4.1% and Victoria's overall net trade position declined by \$449m or 14.4%. On average, Victoria recorded a monthly trade deficit of \$3,088.5m in merchandise trade for the year ended in August 2008.

At the national level, the value of imports was 9.4% higher in August 2008 than in August 2007, while the value of exports (including re-exports) was 38.1% higher over the same period.

BALANCE OF INTERNATIONAL MERCHANDISE TRADE, Exports minus Imports



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Balance of International Merchandise Trade (file size 34kB).

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Trade by Commodity

[Contents >> Trade >> Trade by Commodity](#)

TRADE BY COMMODITY

For the year ended August 2008, Victoria's merchandise exports rose by \$347m (1.7%) in comparison to the year ended August 2007. Rises in exports were recorded mainly for Food and live animals (\$528m), Combined confidential items of trade (\$282m) and Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (\$110m). The largest decrease in exports, over that period, came from Beverages and tobacco (-\$294m), Manufactured goods classified chiefly by material (-\$231m) and Crude materials, inedible, except fuels (-\$192m).

For the year ended August 2008, the total value of Victoria's merchandise imports increased by \$5,871m (11.4%), with increases recorded in all of the import commodity categories. The largest increases were recorded in Machinery and transport equipment (\$2,119m), Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials (\$1995m), Chemicals and related products (\$514m), and Food and live animals (\$439m).

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 International Merchandise Trade, By Commodity (file size 27kB).

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Major Trading Partners

[Contents >> Trade >> Major Trading Partners](#)

MAJOR TRADING PARTNERS

For the year ended August 2008, Victoria's trade deficit was -\$37,061m. Victoria recorded its highest trade deficit with China (-\$7,372m) followed by USA (-\$5,753m) and Japan (-\$3,641m). For the same period, Victoria recorded its highest trading surplus with Saudi Arabia (\$974m) followed by Papua New Guinea (\$142m) and Hong Kong (\$96m).

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 International Merchandise Trade, By Major Trading Partners (file size 24kB)

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Environment

[Contents >> Environment](#)



ENVIRONMENT

This section contains the following subsection :

[Air Quality](#)

[Water Resources](#)

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

Air Quality

[Contents >> Environment >> Air Quality](#)

AIR QUALITY

The Air Quality Index compiled by the Victorian Environment Protection Authority measures the concentration of various pollutants relative to the concentration levels at which they may cause harm. The lower the index is, the better the quality of our air. The index is available for four areas in the Port Phillip Region (East, West, City and Geelong) and the Latrobe Valley.

The Visibility Pollutant Index is an indicator of visibility reduction, and is measured by the concentration of airborne particles relative to Victorian standards. Incidents of poor visibility are generally higher during the cooler months of Autumn and Winter (from May to September), whereas ozone levels are generally higher during the warmer months of Spring

and Summer (from November to February).

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Air Quality (file size 76kB).

[Previous Page](#)

[Next Page](#)

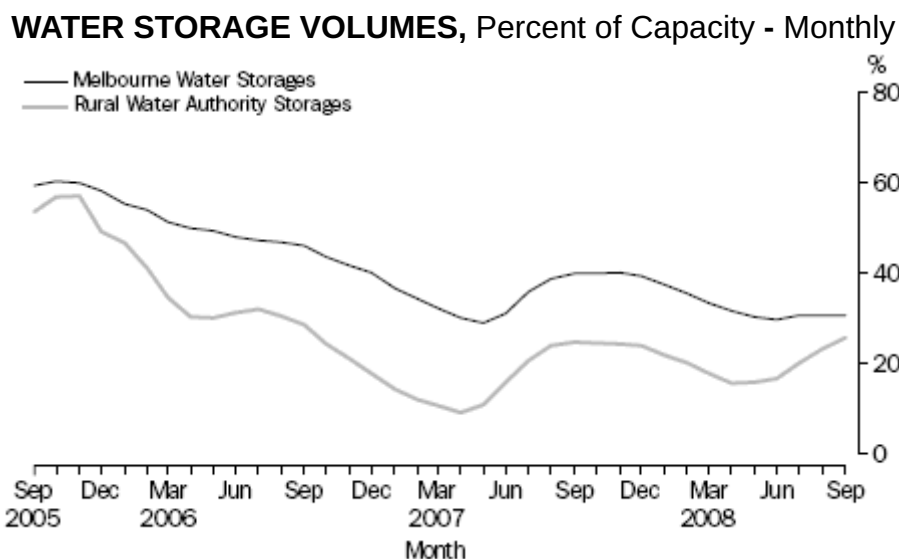
Water Resources

[Contents >> Environment >> Water Resources](#)

WATER RESOURCES

At the end of September 2008, Victoria's water storages were at 25.8% of capacity. This was 2.9% higher than the level in August 2008, and 1.5% higher than in September 2007.

Melbourne's water storage level at the end of September 2008 was at 30.6% of capacity. This was the same level as in August 2008 and 9.2% lower than in September 2007. Rural water storages held 25.6% of their capacity at the end of September 2008, 2.5% higher than in August 2008, and 1.1% higher than the level in September 2007.



View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2 Water Storages, By River Basin - Victoria (file size 24kB).

[Previous Page](#)

Victorian Household Preparedness for Emergencies (Feature Article)

FEATURE ARTICLE: VICTORIAN HOUSEHOLD PREPAREDNESS FOR EMERGENCIES

Introduction
Defining an emergency event
Recent household experience of emergencies
Self-perceived risk of bushfire and flooding
Presence of safety precautions
Smoke alarms and safety switches
Other safety precautions
Volunteering
References

INTRODUCTION

Emergency service organisations aim to reduce the number of emergency events through prevention activities, and to reduce the impact of emergency events through community and operational preparedness (SCRGSP 2008). To examine the steps households had taken in preparing for emergencies, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) conducted a survey of households in October 2007 in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory. The survey also investigated recent household experiences of emergencies. Further information on the survey, including a glossary of terms and a summary of findings with interstate comparisons, can be obtained from Household Preparedness for Emergencies: NSW, Vic., Qld and Act, Oct 2007 (ABS cat. no. 4818.0.55.001). A separate survey on a similar topic was also conducted in Western Australia in October 2007, and summary results from this survey are available in Community Preparedness for Emergencies, Oct 2007 (ABS cat. no. 4818.5).

In the Household Preparedness for Emergencies survey, one adult member of the household answered the survey questions on behalf of the household. In cases where questions related to previous actions or experiences of the household in a defined period (for example, in the previous 12 months or the previous 2 years) and the respondent had lived at the current address for less than that period, the reference period for those questions was reduced to the length of time the respondent had been resident there.

This article explores the detailed survey results for Victoria. In some cases, comparisons with results from surveys on a similar topic conducted in October 1998 and November 1992 are presented. Some results are reported for Major Statistical Regions (MSRs) and Statistical Regions (SRs) in Victoria. Further information on MSRs and SRs can be found in Chapters 5 and 13 of Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), 2001 (ABS cat. no. 1216.0).

[Back to top](#)

DEFINING AN EMERGENCY EVENT

An emergency event results from some natural or man-made phenomenon interacting with the environment and causing destruction or damage (ABS 2006). The range of emergency events include fires, floods, storms, spills and leaks of hazardous materials, and spread of disease (SCRGSP 2008). Depending on the impact and severity of these events, a response may be required from emergency services provided by organisations such as, in Victoria, the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board (MFESB), the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Victoria State Emergency Service (SES). Victorian fire services responded to 27,384 fire incidents in 2006-07, which included 6,233 fires within or involving

a building or structure and 10,008 landscape (bush and grass) fires (SCRGSP 2008). Victoria SES reported attending to 9,442 tasks related to floods and storms in 2006-07 (VICSES 2007).

An emergency event can sometimes be described as a 'disaster'. Defining an event as a disaster can be difficult and controversial, but a disaster could be defined as "an emergency event that is too large or complex for emergency management agencies to respond to effectively with resources available locally or regionally" (BTRE 2001). The impact of disasters (including their cost to the economy) can vary considerably from year to year. Based on an analysis of natural disasters (events with a total estimated cost (TEC) of \$10 million or more) occurring between 1967 and 1999, the Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics (BTRE) estimates that natural disasters in Victoria cost an average of \$93.6 million (in 1999 prices) per year. Over this period, Victoria generally faced small to medium events (TEC of between \$10 million and \$60 million), with the exception of events such as the Ash Wednesday bushfires in 1983 and several large floods in the 1970s and in 1995. Floods (average annual cost of \$38.5 million) have been the most costly natural disasters occurring in Victoria, however bushfires (\$32.4 million) and severe storms (\$22.8 million) are also costly events (BTRE 2001).

Fires (particularly structural fires) pose a high threat to life. There were 27 fire-related deaths recorded in Victoria in 2005, while 537 people were admitted to hospital with fire-related injuries in 2005-06 (SCRGSP 2008). Most fire fatalities occur in residential buildings while people are asleep and so are unable to smell smoke (Building Commission 2006).

Some significant disasters occurred in Victoria in 2006-07. Extensive fires lasting 69 days (a Victorian record) occurred throughout the Great Dividing Range in the eastern part of the state from early December 2006 until February 2007, burning approximately 1.2 million hectares (SCRGSP 2008; CFA 2007). There were nine state-wide Total Fire Ban days in 2006-07, compared with two in 2005-06. The CFA reported that, while no lives were lost as a direct result of fire activity in 2006-07, 51 dwellings, of which 21 were classified as primary residences, were destroyed, and stock, crops and natural assets were also heavily impacted (CFA 2007). In what Victoria SES described as "the first significant flood event for 9 years", up to 300 millimetres of rain fell over parts of Gippsland in June 2007, with several rivers reaching major flood levels. Significant flood damage resulted across a number of Gippsland communities. Some of the affected areas had also been burnt during the preceding summer's fires (VICSES 2007; SCRGSP 2008).

[Back to top](#)

RECENT HOUSEHOLD EXPERIENCE OF EMERGENCIES

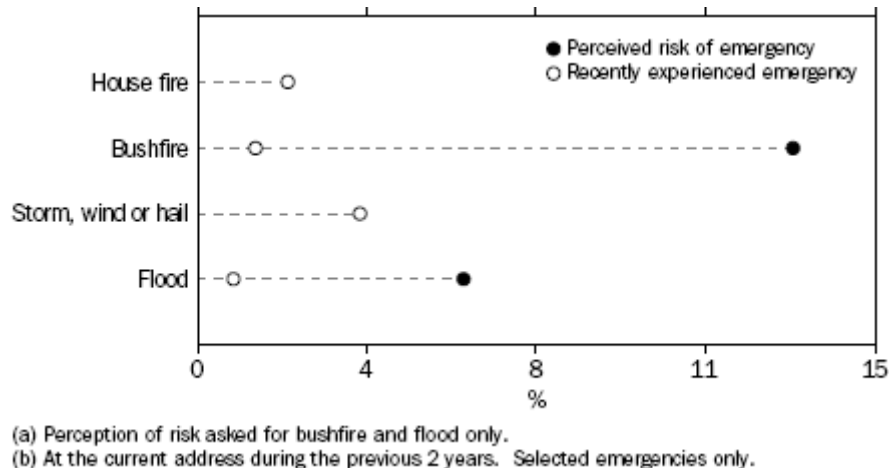
In October 2007, there were estimated to be just over 2 million households in Victoria. One in twelve Victorian households (8% or 150,900 households) had experienced a non-medical emergency at their current address in the previous two years. The most common type of emergency reported was storm, wind or hail (72,800 households, or 48% of households reporting an emergency in the previous two years). House fires (41,200 households), bushfires (25,500 households) and floods (16,000 households) were the other main types of emergencies reported. Some households reported having experienced more than one type of emergency in the previous two years. Interestingly, in 79% of households which had experienced floods in the previous two years the respondent did not perceive a risk from flooding, even after having recently experienced this event (the survey question on perception was asked before the survey questions on recent emergency experiences).

Emergency services organisations (for example, MFESB, CFA, SES, ambulance or police) were not contacted by the majority (76%) of Victorian households experiencing their most

recent emergency. Bushfire was the only type of emergency where more households contacted emergency services than did not, with 65% of households most recently experiencing bushfire contacting emergency services.

People in households may be prompted by the experience of an emergency to make changes so that they are better prepared for a similar emergency in the future. Almost two-thirds (63%) of households who most recently experienced a flood had made changes, compared with 37% of households who most recently experienced storm, wind or hail. Households who most recently experienced a house fire or bushfire were relatively evenly split between those who made changes and those who did not.

HOUSEHOLD PERCEPTION OF RISK(a) AND RECENT(b) EMERGENCY EXPERIENCE, Victoria - October 2007



[Back to top](#)

SELF-PERCEIVED RISK OF BUSHFIRE AND FLOODING

Across Victoria, 13% of households (264,800) had a self-perceived risk of bushfire and 6% (118,500) had a self-perceived risk of flooding (based on the perception of the respondent). A quarter of households in Balance of Victoria MSR (25%) self-perceived a risk of bushfire (147,900), compared with 8% of households in Melbourne MSR (116,900). Some parts of Melbourne MSR, however, had rates of self-perception equivalent to those in Balance of Victoria MSR, with 27% of households in Outer Eastern Melbourne SR (39,500) and 21% of households in Mornington Peninsula SR (21,600) perceiving a risk of bushfire.

PRESENCE OF SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Households can prepare for the possibility of an emergency event in a variety of ways. Some of the precautions a household may have in place are preventative, while others could help determine how a household handles an emergency event if it happens. Households may be required by legislation to have some safety precautions in place, such as smoke alarms and safety switches. A variety of factors, such as proximity to risk and access to support from emergency management services, could influence whether a household has non-legislated precautions in place.

The survey asked households about the following precautions:

- plans for what to do in an emergency
- portable first aid kits in the home

- first aid qualifications
- location of emergency phone numbers
- smoke alarms and smoke detectors
- fire blankets and fire extinguishers
- electrical safety switches and circuit breakers
- removal of trees or trimming of branches that could cause damage to the home in a storm, and
- clearing of debris from roof gutters.

[Back to top](#)

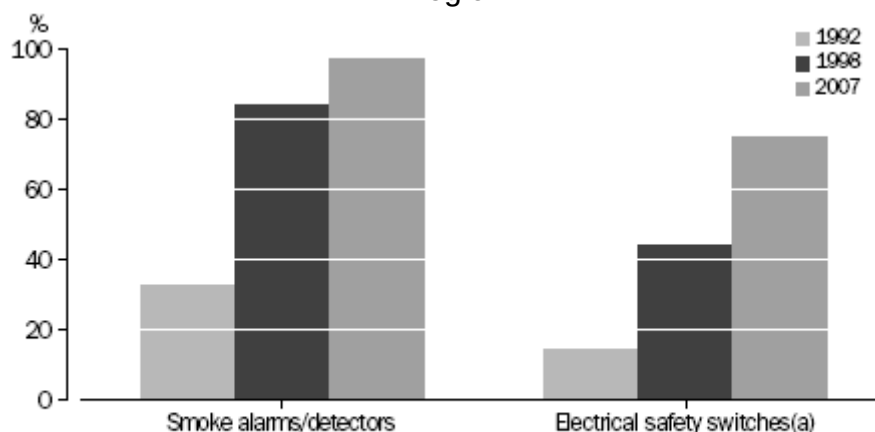
SMOKE ALARMS AND SAFETY SWITCHES

Since 1999, it has been mandatory for all Victorian homes to have a smoke alarm installed. It has also been compulsory for safety switches to be installed in new homes since 1991, and in older homes undergoing major renovations since 2001 (ESV 2006). Across Victoria, 97% of households had a smoke alarm or detector in October 2007, and 75% of households had an electrical safety switch or a circuit breaker (compared with 44% of households having a safety switch in October 1998). The vast majority (92%) of households with a safety switch or a circuit breaker in October 2007 had it located at the fuse or meter box. As the 2007 survey question did not separately distinguish between safety switches and circuit breakers, some households where one of these devices is installed may not have a device which is equivalent to the legislative requirement.

Between 1991-92 and 2006-07, there were 546,700 new dwelling units completed in Victoria (ABS 2008), which suggests that more than one-quarter of Victoria's 2.0 million households live in dwellings built since the legislative requirement for safety switches was introduced.

Following the introduction of the legislated requirements, the prevalence of smoke alarms and safety switches in dwellings is much higher, however comparisons can only be made for Melbourne MSR as the 1992 survey was not conducted across the whole of Victoria. In November 1992, 32% of households in Melbourne MSR had a smoke alarm and 14% had a safety switch (ABS 1999). By October 2007, the proportion of households in Melbourne MSR with a smoke alarm had risen to 97%, while 76% of Melbourne households had a safety switch or a circuit breaker.

HOUSEHOLDS WITH SELECTED SAFETY PRECAUTIONS, Melbourne Major Statistical Region



(a) Data for 2007 include circuit breakers as the survey did not separately distinguish between these and safety switches.

[Back to top](#)

Absence of smoke alarms

While almost all Victorian households have a smoke alarm, there were 57,100 households (3%) in October 2007 which did not. In terms of numbers, these households were relatively evenly split between owner-occupiers (31,900) and renters (23,400), however a higher proportion of renter households (5%) than owner-occupiers (2%) did not have a smoke alarm. A lower prevalence of smoke alarms was particularly evident among households renting from an 'other' landlord (that is, not in public, community or co-operative housing or renting from a real estate agent), with 9% of these households (10,100) not having a smoke alarm installed.

About 5% of households where the respondent had lived at the address for 12 months or less (14,800) did not have a smoke alarm. Renters comprised 80% of these households.

Households where at least one household member would not be able to understand emergency instructions in English also had a lower prevalence of smoke alarms than other households - 8% of these households (4,000) did not have a smoke alarm, with most (82%) being renters.

Testing of smoke alarms

According to the Building Commission, smoke alarms must be properly maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to be effective. Maintenance includes the testing of alarms (in most cases by depressing a button on the outside of the alarm), the replacement of batteries and cleaning. Building surveyors are not required to check that dwelling owners maintain their smoke alarms (Building Commission 2006). In most Victorian households with smoke alarms, the alarms had been manually tested in the 12 months prior to October 2007 (85%). Of the other 15% of households with alarms, 84% considered the smoke alarms to be in working order. Smoke alarms should emit a warning sound when the battery needs replacement (Building Commission 2006), so respondents may have assumed that in the absence of a warning sound the alarm was working.

Households in Melbourne MSR were less likely than households in Balance of Victoria MSR to have smoke alarms that had been tested in the previous 12 months (83%, compared with 89%). Within Melbourne MSR, higher proportions of households with smoke alarms tested in the previous 12 months were found in Mornington Peninsula SR (91%) and Outer Eastern Melbourne SR (89%), while a lower proportion was found in Inner Melbourne SR (77%).

Owner-occupier households (87%) were more likely than renter households (78%) to have smoke alarms that had been tested in the previous 12 months. Among households where at least one household member would not be able to understand emergency instructions in English, only 66% had smoke alarms that had been tested in the previous 12 months. In 25% of households where the respondent had lived at the address for 12 months or less, the smoke alarms had not been tested (or the respondent did not know whether they had been tested) in that period.

[Back to top](#)

Absence of safety switches

In October 2007, just over 500,000 Victorian households either did not have a safety switch or a circuit breaker (364,100) or did not know whether one was installed (139,600). Two-thirds (68%) of households without a safety switch or a circuit breaker were owner-

occupiers, while 55% of households where the respondent did not know were renters. Almost one in four renter households (23%) did not have a safety switch or a circuit breaker, compared with 16% of owner-occupier households, while the respondent in renter households was four times more likely than in owner-occupier households not to know whether a safety switch or a circuit breaker was installed (16%, compared with 4%).

OTHER SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

This section examines some of the other precautions households had in place in October 2007, and highlights geographic differences within Victoria and differences based on particular household characteristics. Across Victoria:

- 15% of households had a plan for what to do in a non-medical emergency that was written down or had been recently (in the previous 12 months) rehearsed
- 22% had a fire blanket in the home
- 31% had a fire extinguisher in the home
- 29% had someone in the household with a recent (obtained or renewed in the previous 3 years) first aid qualification
- 56% had a portable first aid kit in the home, and
- 70% had emergency phone numbers (other than 000) located so that they could be easily accessed in an emergency.

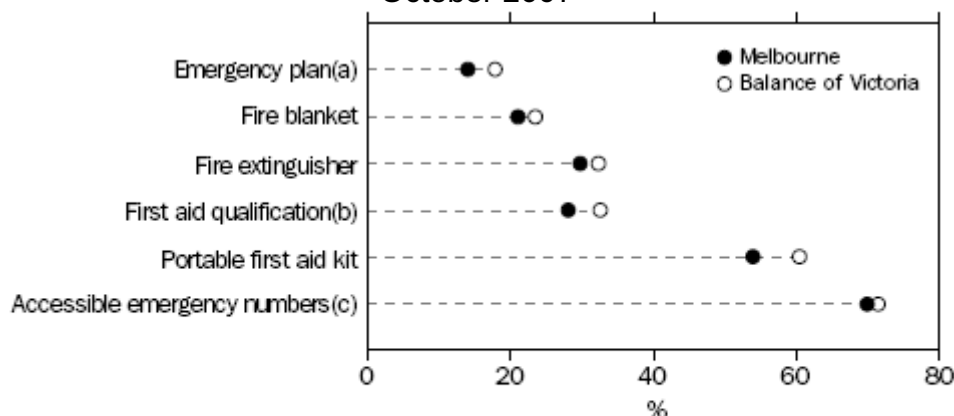
In the remainder of this article, these precautions are described as 'selected safety precautions' when referred to as a group.

[Back to top](#)

Geographical differences

Compared with Balance of Victoria MSR, a lower proportion of households in Melbourne MSR had someone in the household with a recent first aid qualification (28%, compared with 33%) or a portable first aid kit (54%, compared with 60%).

HOUSEHOLDS WITH SELECTED SAFETY PRECAUTIONS, Major Statistical Regions - October 2007

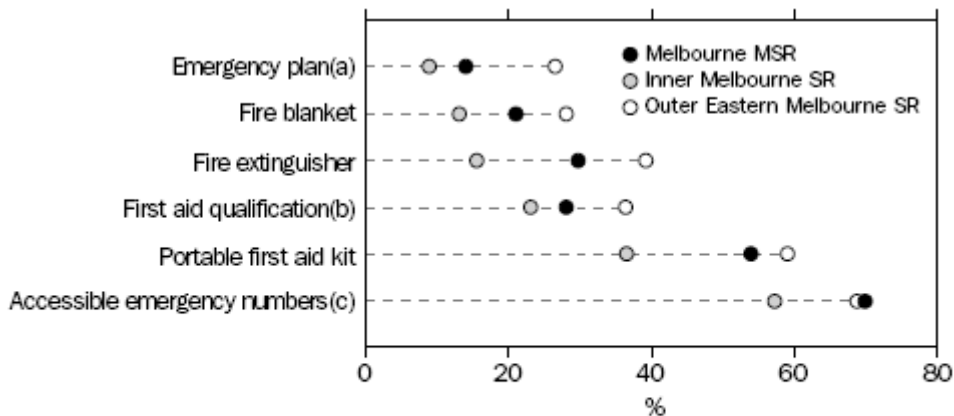


- (a) Written down, or rehearsed in the previous 12 months. For non-medical emergencies only.
 (b) Qualification obtained or renewed by a household member in the previous 3 years. Includes households where a member is a doctor or nurse.
 (c) Phone numbers are displayed or stored separately and are easily accessible in an emergency.

Within Melbourne MSR, households in Inner Melbourne SR were less likely (compared with Melbourne MSR as a whole) to have in place most of the selected safety precautions, and in

particular fire blankets, fire extinguishers, portable first aid kits and easily accessible emergency phone numbers. In contrast, households in Outer Eastern Melbourne SR were more likely (compared with Melbourne MSR as a whole) to most of the selected precautions in place, particularly written-down or recently rehearsed emergency plans, fire blankets, fire extinguishers and recent first aid qualifications. However, households in Outer Eastern Melbourne SR were much more likely to have a written-down or recently rehearsed emergency plan if it was perceived by the respondent that the household was at risk of bushfire than not (48%, compared with 19%).

HOUSEHOLDS WITH SELECTED SAFETY PRECAUTIONS, Selected regions - October 2007



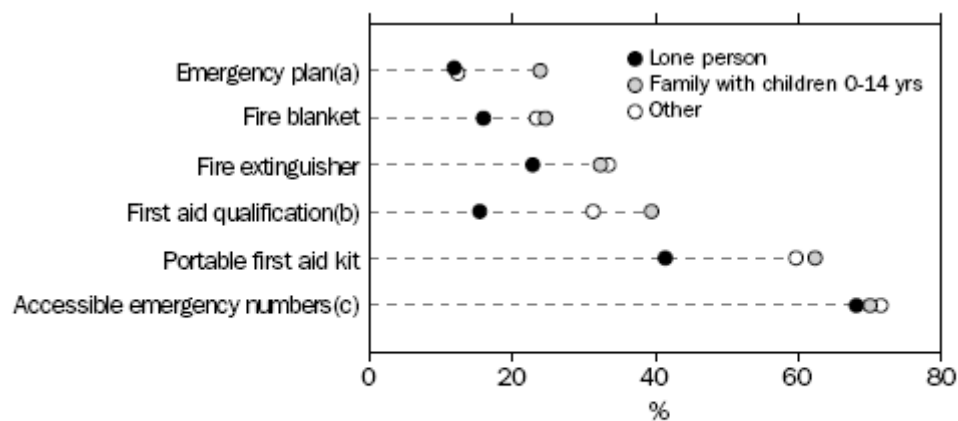
(a) Written down, or rehearsed in the previous 12 months. For non-medical emergencies only.
(b) Qualification obtained or renewed by a household member in the previous 3 years. Includes households where a member is a doctor or nurse.
(c) Phone numbers are displayed or stored separately and are easily accessible in an emergency.

[Back to top](#)

Household type

Lone person households were generally less likely to have safety precautions in place. In October 2007, 16% of lone person households had a fire blanket, while 23% had a fire extinguisher, 15% had a recent first aid qualification, and 41% had a portable first aid kit. Almost one in four (24%) families with children aged 0-14 years had a written-down or recently rehearsed emergency plan, while 39% had someone in the household with a recent first aid qualification. As may be expected, families containing children aged 0-14 years were more likely to have a member who would need help evacuating (42%) than other household types.

HOUSEHOLDS WITH SELECTED SAFETY PRECAUTIONS, Household type - October 2007



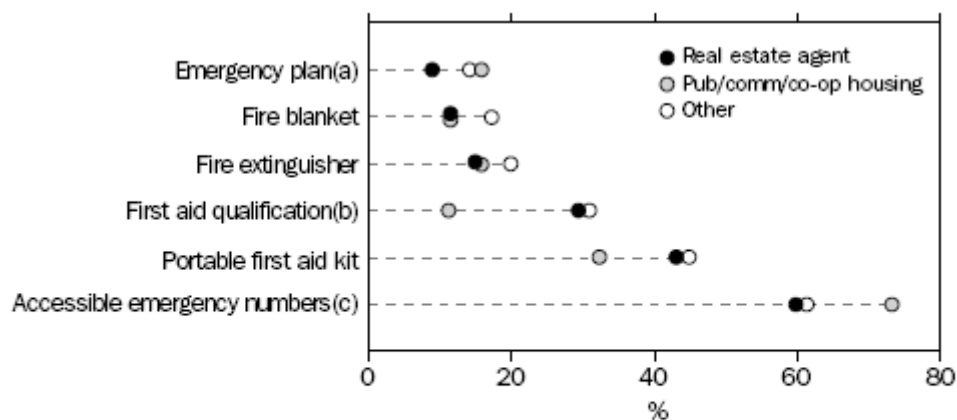
(a) Written down, or rehearsed in the previous 12 months. For non-medical emergencies only.
 (b) Qualification obtained or renewed by a household member in the previous 3 years. Includes households where a member is a doctor or nurse.
 (c) Phone numbers are displayed or stored separately and are easily accessible in an emergency.

[Back to top](#)

Tenure and landlord type

Among renter households, there were differences in how prepared households were for an emergency. Compared to other renters, households in public, community or co-operative housing were less likely to have someone in the household with a recent first aid qualification (11% of these households) or a portable first aid kit (32%), but more likely to have easily accessible emergency phone numbers (73%). More than a quarter of these households (28%) contained a household member who would need help evacuating.

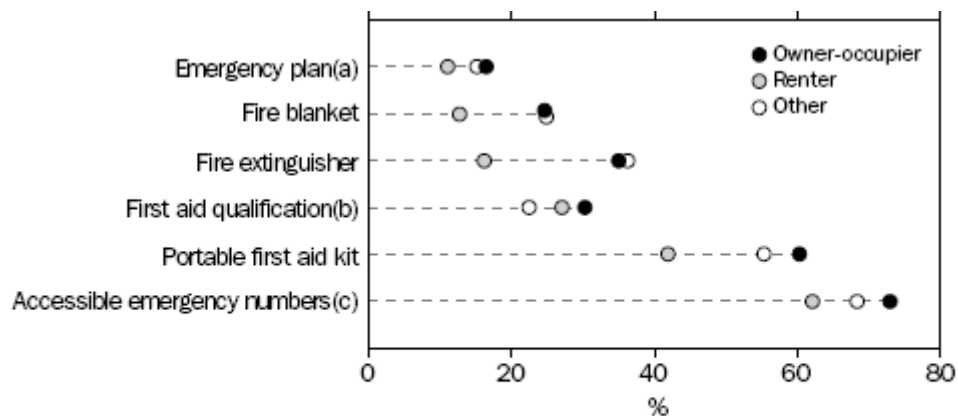
RENTER HOUSEHOLDS WITH SELECTED SAFETY PRECAUTIONS, Landlord type - October 2007



(a) Written down, or rehearsed in the previous 12 months. For non-medical emergencies only.
 (b) Qualification obtained or renewed by a household member in the previous 3 years. Includes households where a member is a doctor or nurse.
 (c) Phone numbers are displayed or stored separately and are easily accessible in an emergency.

Overall, households who were renting were less likely than other households in October 2007 to have a written-down or recently rehearsed emergency plan (11% of renter households), a fire blanket (13%), a fire extinguisher (16%), a portable first aid kit (42%) or easily accessible emergency phone numbers (62%).

HOUSEHOLDS WITH SELECTED SAFETY PRECAUTIONS, Tenure type - October 2007



(a) Written down, or rehearsed in the previous 12 months. For non-medical emergencies only.
 (b) Qualification obtained or renewed by a household member in the previous 3 years. Includes households where a member is a doctor or nurse.
 (c) Phone numbers are displayed or stored separately and are easily accessible in an emergency.

[Back to top](#)

Inability to understand emergency instructions in English

In October 2007, there were 49,300 households in Victoria which contained at least one person who would not be able to understand emergency instructions in English (based on the perception of the respondent). While these households make up a very small proportion (2%) of Victorian households, their level of preparedness for emergencies is lower than that of other households, and 41% contained someone who would need help evacuating. Less than one in ten (8%) of these households had a fire blanket, 10% had a fire extinguisher, 15% had someone in the household with a recent first aid qualification, 41% had a portable first aid kit, and 56% had easily accessible emergency phone numbers.

Help required to evacuate

About one in six Victorian households (18%) contained at least one person who would need help evacuating (based on the perception of the respondent). There was some regional variation in the proportion of households containing someone who would need help, with 24% of households in North Eastern Melbourne SR having someone who would require help, compared with 9% of households in Inner Melbourne SR. In the main, the preparedness of these households was not significantly different to other households, except that households containing someone who would need help evacuating were more likely to have a written-down or recently rehearsed emergency plan than those which did not (20%, compared with 14%).

Moved to the address in the previous 12 months

In the October 2007 Household Preparedness for Emergencies survey, there were 288,600 households in Victoria (14%) where the respondent had lived at the address for 12 months or less. However, other members of the household may have lived at the address for a longer period of time than the respondent. This information was not collected in the survey, but an indication of household numbers can be gained from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing. The Census indicates that there were 227,100 Victorian households where all household members had moved to the address in the year prior to Census Night in 2006, and an additional 71,200 households where some, but not all, household members had moved to the address in the year prior.

Households where the respondent had lived at the address for 12 months or less prior to October 2007 were not as likely as other households to have a written-down or recently rehearsed emergency plan (8%), a fire blanket (12%), a fire extinguisher (18%), a portable first aid kit (47%) or easily accessible emergency phone numbers (54%).

[Back to top](#)

VOLUNTEERING

According to the Report on Government Services 2008, almost 65,000 fire, ambulance and SES volunteers played a role in the provision of emergency services in Victoria in 2006-07, with the report noting that the input by volunteers is particularly important in rural and remote service provision (SCRGSP 2008). The CFA in Victoria is "one of the world's largest volunteer-based emergency service organisations" (CFA 2007).

The Household Preparedness for Emergencies survey found that there were 66,700 households in Victoria in October 2007 which contained at least one member who currently volunteered with an emergency, safety or rescue organisation. As well as fire, ambulance and SES, volunteering in activities such as surf life saving, first aid and coastguard were in the scope of the survey. Most households containing a volunteer were located in Balance of Victoria MSR (43,200). About half of volunteer households (46%) considered that they were at risk of bushfire, including 59% of households which contained a CFA volunteer. One in six volunteer households (17%) had experienced a non-medical emergency in the previous two years.

Households containing volunteers were more likely to be better prepared for emergencies than other households, with 42% of these households having a written-down or recently rehearsed emergency plan, 41% having a fire blanket, 53% having a fire extinguisher, 62% having someone in the household with a recent first aid qualification, 76% having a portable first aid kit, and 82% having easily accessible emergency phone numbers.

[Back to top](#)

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[Back to top](#)

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2, Households With Selected Safety Precautions, By Statistical Region - October 2007 (file size 23kB).

View underlying table as an Excel spreadsheet: 1367.2, Households With Selected Safety Precautions, By Selected Household Circumstance - October 2007 (file size 24kB).

More Victorian homes have smoke alarms now: ABS (Media Release)

MEDIA RELEASE

November 21, 2008

110/2008

More Victorian homes have smoke alarms now: ABS

Smoke alarms were installed in 97% of Victorian households in 2007, an increase from 84% in 1998, according to a report released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Almost 2 million households had smoke alarms in October 2007, and 85% had manually tested their alarms in the previous 12 months.

However, more than 50,000 households still remain without smoke alarms.

Other highlights from the survey include:

- Households in the outer east of Melbourne were much more prepared for emergencies than those in inner Melbourne, but the emergency preparedness of Melbourne households generally was similar to those in regional Victoria.
- There were almost 50,000 households in Victoria with someone unable to understand emergency instructions in English; these households generally had lower levels of emergency preparedness.
- One in four households in regional Victoria felt at risk of bushfires; in Melbourne the highest perceived bushfire risks were felt to be by households in the outer east and Mornington Peninsula.
- Over 150,000 households experienced an emergency in the last two years - nearly half of these were caused by storms, wind or hail.
- Overall, most people didn't contact emergency services unless their home was threatened by a bushfire.
- There were 67,000 households with an emergency services volunteer - these households generally had higher levels of emergency preparedness.

More information can be found in the *Victorian Household Preparedness for Emergencies* feature article contained in *State and Regional Indicators, Victoria* (cat. no. 1367.2), available for free download from the ABS website <www.abs.gov.au>.

Explanatory Notes

Glossary

GLOSSARY

Chain volume measures

Annually-reweighted chain Laspeyres indexes referenced to the current price values in a chosen reference year (i.e. the year when the quarterly chain volume measures sum to the current price annual values). Chain Laspeyres volume measures are compiled by linking together (compounding) movements in volumes, calculated using the average prices of the previous financial year, and applying the compounded movements to the current price estimates of the reference year. Quarterly chain volume estimates are benchmarked to annual chain volume estimates, so that the quarterly estimates for a financial year sum to the corresponding annual estimate.

Generally, chain volume measures are not additive. In other words, component chain volume measures do not sum to a total in the way original current price components do. In order to minimise the impact of this property, the ABS uses the latest base year as the reference year. By adopting this approach, additivity exists for the quarters following the reference year and non-additivity is relatively small for the quarters in the reference year and the quarters immediately preceding it. The latest base year and the reference year will be advanced one year with the release of the June quarter data each year. A change in reference year changes levels but not growth rates, although some revision to recent growth rates can be expected because of the introduction of a more recent base year (and revisions to the current price estimates underlying the chain volume measures).

Deficit and surplus

A deficit occurs when the sum of all debit entries exceeds the sum of all credit entries, and a surplus occurs when the sum of all credit entries exceeds the sum of all debit entries. The term deficit (or surplus) can therefore be used in relation to various balances, e.g. balance of trade.

Duration of unemployment

The elapsed period to the end of the reference week since a person began looking for work, or since a person last worked for two weeks or more, whichever is the shorter. Brief periods of work (of less than two weeks) since the person began looking for work are disregarded.

Employed

Persons aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job or business or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers);
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e.

- contributing family workers);
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
 - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week;
 - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week;
 - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement;
 - on strike or locked out;
 - on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job;
- were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

Part-time workers

Employed persons who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and either did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.

Particles as PM₁₀

Particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 micrometres or less.

Photochemical oxidants and ozone

'Photochemical oxidants' is the technical term for the type of smog found in Australian cities during the warmer months of the year. This type of smog can be invisible or it can appear as a whitish haze.

Photochemical oxidants are formed when sunlight falls on a mixture of chemicals in the air. Ozone is one of the main photochemical oxidants. Other chemicals such as formaldehyde are also found and, like ozone, have adverse health effects. Environment agencies measure the level of ozone because it indicates the total amount of photochemical oxidants in the air. Cities that have abundant sunshine over periods of time, together with moderate winds and high temperatures, are most likely to experience high levels of photochemical oxidants.

Ozone is a gas that is formed when nitrogen oxides react with a group of air pollutants known as 'reactive organic substances' in the presence of sunlight. The chemicals that react to form ozone come from sources such as: motor vehicle exhaust, oil refining, printing, petrochemicals, lawn mowing, aviation, bushfires and burning off. Motor vehicle exhaust fumes produce as much as 70% of the nitrogen oxides and 50% of the organic chemicals that form ozone. (Source: Australian Government Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, <<http://www.environment.gov.au>>)

Seasonal adjustment

A means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variations from economic time series so that the effects of other influences are obvious. Seasonal variations are the systematic (though not necessarily regular) intra-year movements of economic time series. These are often the result of non-economic phenomena, such as climatic changes and regular religious festivals (e.g. Christmas and Easter).

State final demand

Conceptually identical to domestic final demand at the national level (the sum of private and

government final consumption expenditure and private and public gross fixed capital formation).

National estimates are based on the concepts and conventions embodied in the System of National Accounts, 1993, but for regional (including state) estimates there is no separate international standard. Although national concepts are generally applicable to state accounts, there remain several conceptual and measurement issues that either do not apply or are insignificant nationally. Most of the problems arise in the measurement of gross state product for the transport and storage, communication services, and finance and insurance industries, where production often takes place across state borders. In these cases, a number of conceptual views can be applied to the allocation of value added by state. For more information, see chapter 28 of **Australian System of National Accounts: Concepts, Sources and Methods** (cat. no. 5216.0).

Trend estimates

Smoothing seasonally adjusted series produces a measure of trend by removing the impact of the irregular component of the series. The trend estimates are derived by applying a 13-term Henderson weighted moving average to the respective seasonally adjusted series. Readers are reminded that trend estimates are subject to revision as subsequent months' data become available.

Unemployed

Persons aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and:

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and:
 - were available for work in the reference week;
 - were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week, and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

Abbreviations

ABBREVIATIONS

The following symbols and abbreviations are used in this publication:

| | |
|--------|---|
| ABS | Australian Bureau of Statistics |
| ACT | Australian Capital Territory |
| ANZSIC | Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification |
| ASCO | Australian Standard Classification of Occupations |
| ASGC | Australian Standard Geographical Classification |
| Aust. | Australia |
| B | Borough |
| BoV | Balance of Victoria |
| BTRE | Bureau of Transport and Regional Economics |
| C | City |
| CFA | Country Fire Authority |

| | |
|--------|---|
| CPI | consumer price index |
| EPA | Environment Protection Authority |
| ERP | estimated resident population |
| FT | full-time |
| LGA | local government area |
| MFESB | Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board |
| ML | megalitre |
| MMA | Melbourne Metropolitan Area |
| MSD | Melbourne Statistical Division |
| MSR | major statistical region |
| n.e.c. | not elsewhere classified |
| NEPM | National Environment Protection Measure |
| NSW | New South Wales |
| NT | Northern Territory |
| qtr | quarter |
| Qld | Queensland |
| RC | Rural City |
| S | Shire |
| SA | South Australia |
| SCRGSP | Steering Committee for the Review of Government Service Provision |
| SD | statistical division |
| SEPP | State Environment Protection Policy |
| SES | State Emergency Service |
| SITC | Standard International Trade Classification |
| SLA | statistical local area |
| SSD | statistical subdivision |
| Tas. | Tasmania |
| Vic. | Victoria |
| WA | Western Australia |